

Washington County Water Consortium

June 3rd, 2020

2 pm to 3 pm

Remote meeting - Zoom

(If you are not on the Consortium listserv please email

Maureen.hoffman@co.washington.mn.us for the Zoom link and access code)

Please join us for a discussion on lake and shoreline management. This consortium is being hosted in partnership with the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP), MN DNR, WI DNR, Washington County, and the St. Croix River Association as the first St. Croix Virtual Workshop in a three part series. Please click [here](#) for registration and further information on the following virtual workshops.

Agenda

- 2:00 - 2:05 **Welcome**
Introductions, Announcements
- 2:05 - 2:20 **Who's in charge? Understanding the different roles of state and local government**
Presenter: Angie Hong, EMWREP
- 2:20 - 2:25 **Common scenarios: Can I do that with my property?**
Presenter: Angie Hong, EMWREP
- 2:35 - 3:50 **Vegetative removal and land alteration standards along shorelines**
Presenter: Matt Bauman, MN DNR
- 3:50 - 4:00 **Questions/Adjourn**

Washington County Water Consortium: June 3rd, 2020

Announcements:

2 more virtual St. Croix River Workshops on the Water coming up. Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-croix-virtual-workshops-on-the-water-tickets-104063007256>

- June 10th – Landscaping and Habitat, 2-3pm
- June 17th – St. Croix Riverway, 2-3pm

Protecting Lakes and Rivers: Who's in charge? Understanding the different roles of state and local government

Presenter: Angie Hong, EMWREP, ahong@mnwcd.org

- 56% of MN lakes, river, streams are impaired.
- Need to reduce phosphorus loading to the St. Croix River by 122 tons/year.
- Federal – Clean Water Act of 1972, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, U.S. EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Anishinaabe and Dakota tribes
- State – MN Governor's office – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Local – Cities/towns, counties, met council, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs
- MN Shoreland Management Program – MDNR
 - Statewide standards local government must adopt to their ordinances to provide for orderly development and protection of shorelands.
 - Local governments regulate and enforce shoreland district activities through their local shoreland ordinance.
 - Includes all public waters statewide that meet specific criteria.
 - Shoreland regulations apply within shoreland district (1000 feet from Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) for lakes).
- 1 pound of phosphorus = 500 pounds of algae
- Water quality can affect property values (3-foot decrease in water quality leads to 22% decline in property value in rural areas).
- Urban property– 100-foot OHWL setback, 40-foot bluff line setback
- Rural property – 200-foot OHWL setback, 100-foot bluff line setback
- www.mnwatershed.org – how to find your watershed district or watershed management organization

Common scenarios: Can I do that with my property?

Presenter: Angie Hong, EMWREP, ahong@mnwcd.org

- Adding a new deck – Contact city/county zoning administrator, likely need a building permit, meet minimum setback requirements, may be buffer rules that prohibit from removing trees/vegetation to build the deck.
- Adding an addition to the house – All recommendations from adding a new deck, plus cannot exceed impervious surface percentage limits and may be required to include raingardens or other features to mitigate increased runoff.
- Building a boat house – Does not allow new boat houses to be built below OHWL, DNR permit required to repair existing boat houses, contact city/county zoning administrator
- Clearing trees to see the water better – No vegetation removal or tree limb removal within OHWL and bluff setback zone, contact city/county zoning administrator.
- Creating a beach – DNR permit required to cover emergent vegetation unless already authorized, beach guidelines (for example, installation may only be repeated once at same location not exceeding the same amount and dimensions of the original sand blanket, no more than 6 inches thick/50-feet wide, etc.).
- Creating a fire ring – Contact city/county and watershed district if fire ring creates new impervious surface near shoreline.
- Stairs, lifts, and docks – Contact city/county to check on local zoning regulations, should not obstruct navigation or create a safety hazard, not harm fish and wildlife habitats, must allow water to flow freely beneath, etc.

Vegetative removal and land alteration standards along shorelines

Presenter: Matt Bauman, MN DNR, matthew.bauman@state.mn.us

- Waves/fluctuating water levels/freezing/thawing scenarios pound away at short-rooted grass and cause shoreland erosion.
- Shoreland vegetation removal
 - Prohibited intensive veg removal in the shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes.
 - Limited clearing/trimming of trees/shrubs in shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes is allowed to provide a view.
 - Activities on steep slopes (SSTS, roads, driveways, structures) require an evaluation by LGUs.
- Land alterations in shoreland area
 - Shoreland rules require a permit for dirt moving >10 cubic yards and prohibits intensive vegetation clearing.
 - Communities required to tie conditions to their permit – riprap, revegetation, ensure activities don't impact neighboring property.
- Vegetation removal in the Lower St. Croix River

- Permit required – Rural (within 200 feet of OHW), urban (within 100 feet of OHW), bluffs slopes >12% and 40 feet landward of any bluff line.
- Resources for vegetation restoration
 - Local SWCD, watershed district, watershed management organization – Type of assistance varies by community, cost share often available.
 - DNR state forestry nursery – Affordable source for bare root seedlings.
 - BWSR – Establishment guidelines, recommended seed mixes, etc.

Q: If an activity is in violation, what happens? A: Every ordinance should have a violation section, up to local administrators to enforce.